

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 21, has been amended as follows:

Communication services using video such as videophone services are becoming widely available. In ~~vide-video~~ communication using a communication channel for speech communication such as a telephone line, an encoding process is performed to reduce the volume of information since the size of a video signal is significantly larger than that of the speech signal by an order of 100-1000.

The paragraph beginning on page 15, line 5, has been amended as follows:

The coded signal storage ~~unit 6-unit 4~~ according to the first embodiment determines whether the entirety of the image in the input coded image signal is processed in the intra-frame coding mode, based on the coding mode signal from the image decoding unit 5. The coded image signal containing a block processed in the inter-frame coding mode is discarded without storing the same. When the coded image signal for a frame in which the entirety of an image is processed in the intra-frame coding mode is input, the process of storing the coded image signal is started.

The paragraph beginning on page 15, line 17, has been amended as follows:

By performing the process as described above, it is ensured that the decoding of the coded image signal stored in the coded signal storage ~~unit 6~~unit 4 by the image decoding unit 5 starts with the coded image signal resulting from the intra-frame coding of the entirety of an image. Accordingly, an efficient storage process is ensured. Additionally, images are reconstructed for display without exhibiting any disturbance.

The paragraph beginning on page 16, line 5, has been amended as follows:

When the request for reconstruction is input, for example, by the user, to the storage and reconstruction control unit 3, the storage and reconstruction control unit 3 issues a reconstruction start signal for reconstruction of the coded image signal to the coded signal storage unit 4 and the image decoding unit 5. The reconstruction start signal may be input only to the coded signal storage unit 4 so that the coded signal storage unit 4 responds to the reconstruction start signal to output the coded image signal stored therein to the image decoding unit 5 and the image decoding unit 5 starts reconstructing the input coded image signal.

Alternatively, the reconstruction start signal may input only to the image decoding unit 5 so that the image decoding unit 5 responds to the start signal to ~~red-read~~ the coded image signal from the coded signal storage unit 4 for reconstruction thereof.